

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-7 and 9-29 will be pending, claims 1-7 and 9-19 having been amended, claims 20-29 added, and claim 8 canceled in the present amendment.

Submitted herewith is a Statement of the Substance of the Interview regarding a telephonic interview between Examiner Patel and Applicant's representatives on March 23, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12 and 13 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 12 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form. Withdrawal of the objections is therefore requested.

103(a) Rejections over Gannaway in view of Lousig-Nont

Claims 1, 4-6, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gannaway (US 4,773,860) in view of Lousig-Nont (US 4,358,279). Applicant traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a method including, *inter alia*, detecting geometric shapes from capture data and designating to which paper form the shapes belong according to detection order of the shapes in a logical set. This method advantageously simplifies data capture and processing of multiple paper forms for a user.

In contrast, Gannaway provides a plurality of contact switches underlying multiple choice answers, where the switches are activated by a probe. See, e.g., Gannaway, col. 5, lines 38-42. Lousig-Nont detects a mark made by a test-taker on a score sheet, determines in which answer category (graphically represented by shapes) the mark was made, and tallies the number of answers in each category according to the number of times a mark is made in each category's representative shape. See, e.g., Lousig-Nont, Fig. 4, col. 25, lines 25-38. Neither Gannaway nor Lousig-Nont disclose the claimed detection and designation.

Claim 17 as amended is directed to a system including a processor that detects shapes from capture data and converts the shapes to questionnaire answers. Neither Gannaway nor Lousig-Nont disclose the claimed detection and conversion.

For at least the reasons stated above, claims 1, 17, and their respective dependent claims patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore requested.

103(a) Rejections over Gannaway in view of Lousig-Nont in view of Yoshino

Claims 2, 3, 7-11, 14-16, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gannaway in view of Lousig-Nont as applied to claims 1, 4-6, and 17, and further in view of Yoshino (US 6,618,504). Applicant traverses the rejections.

The deficiencies of Gannaway and Lousig-Nont are not corrected by Yoshino because Yoshino also fails to detect geometric shapes from capture data and designate to which paper form the shapes belong according to detection order of the shapes in a logical set, as in claim 1. Yoshino further fails to convert the shapes to questionnaire answers, as in claims 7 and 17. Instead, Yoshino detects and recognizes handwritten characters. See, e.g., Yoshino, Abstract.

For at least these reasons, claims 1, 7, 17, and their respective dependent claims patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 20-29 patentably distinguish over the cited references for at least the reasons stated above.

CONCLUSION

The claims are allowable.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter regarding this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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Cassandra T. Swain

Cassandra T. Swain, Ph.D.

Reg. No. 48,361

Kenyon & Kenyon
1500 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 220-4200 tel
(202) 220-4201 fax